

Listing of All Claims Including Current Amendments

1. (currently amended) A video imaging system, comprising:
a camera head ~~for~~ transmitting image data;
a camera control unit ~~for~~ receiving and processing said image data from said camera head, said camera control unit having a detachable configurable component;
a storage device accessible by said camera control unit; and
configuration information stored on said storage device;
~~said information used by said camera control unit for selecting hardware in said camera control unit to process the image data~~
said camera control unit receiving said configuration information and
configuring said detachable configurable component for processing the image data,
wherein said detachable configurable component is completely removable from said camera control unit such that a different detachable configurable component may be installed in said camera control unit.
2. (original) The video imaging system according to claim 1, further comprising a camera head identifier received by said camera control unit for retrieving said information from said storage device.
3. (original) The video imaging system according to claim 2, wherein said camera head transmits said camera head identifier.
4. (original) The video imaging system according to claim 1, wherein said camera head includes said storage device.
5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) The video system according to claim 1 [[5]], wherein said information specifies said at least one replaceable hardware component.
7. (currently amended) The video system according to claim 1 [[5]], wherein said at least one replaceable hardware component further includes a processor.
8. (currently amended) The video system according to claim 1 [[5]], wherein said at least one replaceable hardware component further includes a memory device.
9. (currently amended) The video system according to claim 1 [[5]], wherein said at least one replaceable hardware component further includes a field programmable gate array.
10. (currently amended) The video system according to claim 1 [[5]], further comprising a video bus and said at least one replaceable hardware component attaches to said video bus.
11. (currently amended) The video imaging system according to claim 1 [[5]], wherein said replaceable hardware component includes a connector.
12. (original) The video imaging system according to claim 11, wherein said connector receives the image data.
13. (original) The video imaging system according to claim 11, wherein said connector outputs a signal processed from the image data.
14. (original) The video imaging system according to claim 1, wherein said camera control unit further comprises hardware capable of processing at least two different types of image data.

15. (original) The video imaging system according to claim 1, wherein said information routes the image data received by said camera control unit to the hardware capable of processing a specified type of image data.

16. (original) The video imaging system according to claim 1, wherein said information enables said camera control unit to issue commands to said camera head.

17. (currently amended) A video imaging system, comprising:
a camera head for transmitting image data; and
a camera control unit for receiving and processing the image data from said camera head, said camera control unit having a detachable configurable component;
said camera control unit having a detachable configurable ~~includes at least one~~
~~replaceable hardware~~ component;
said camera control unit receiving configuration information and configuring said detachable configurable component for processing the image data, wherein said detachable configurable component is completely removable from said camera control unit such that a different detachable configurable component may be installed in said camera control unit.

18. (original) The video imaging system according to claim 17, further comprising a storage device accessible by said camera control unit.

19. (original) The video imaging system according to claim 18, further comprising information stored on said storage device.

20. (original) The video imaging system according to claim 17, further comprising a connector for outputting a signal processed from the image data.

21. (original) The video imaging system according to claim 17, wherein said at least one replaceable hardware component processes at least two different types of image data.

22. (currently amended) A video imaging system, comprising:

a camera head ~~for~~ transmitting image data;

a camera control unit ~~for~~ receiving and processing the image data from said camera head;

said camera control unit having a detachable configurable ~~includes at least one replaceable hardware component~~; and

software executing on said camera control unit configuring said detachable configurable component ~~for selecting hardware~~ in said camera control unit to process the image data;

said camera control unit receiving configuration information and configuring said detachable configurable component based on the configuration information, wherein said detachable configurable component is completely removable from said camera control unit such that a different detachable configurable component may be installed in said camera control unit.

23. (original) The video imaging system according to claim 22, further comprising a storage device accessible by said camera control unit.

24. (original) The video imaging system according to claim 23, wherein said software for selecting hardware is stored on said storage device.

25. (currently amended) A method for video imaging, comprising the steps of:

providing a camera for transmitting image data;

providing a camera control unit for processing the transmitted image data;

coupling a storage device to the camera control unit;
storing information on the storage device;
retrieving the information from the storage device;
executing the information on the camera control unit; ~~and~~
configuring a detachable configurable component ~~selecting hardware~~ in the camera control unit to process the image data;
removing the detachable configurable component;
inserting a different detachable configurable component;
retrieving information from the storage device; and
configuring a different detachable configurable component in the camera control unit to process the image data.

26. (original) The method according to claim 25, further comprising the step of coupling at least one replaceable hardware component to the camera control unit.

27. (original) The method according to claim 26, further comprising the step of configuring the at least one replaceable hardware component.

28. (original) The method according to claim 25, further comprising the step of processing at least two different types of image data.

29. (new) The video imaging system according to claim 1 wherein said detachable configurable component comprises a processor.

30. (new) The video imaging system according to claim 29 wherein said processor receives and executes a program.

31. (new) The video imaging system according to claim 22 wherein said detachable configurable component comprises a processor.

32. (new) The video imaging system according to claim 31 wherein said processor receives and executes said software.